



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Via Regular Mail

September 12, 2002

Mr. Peter Benjamin, Lake County Auditor
County Government Center
3rd Floor, Building A
2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Mr. Paul G. Karras, Lake County Assessor
County Government Center
2nd Floor, Building A
2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Ms. Peggy Holinga Katona, Lake County Treasurer
County Government Center
3rd Floor, Building A
2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Mr. Morris Carter, Lake County Recorder
County Government Center
2nd Floor, Building A
2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Re: Removal Action - Former Gary Development Company Landfill
479 North Cline Avenue, Gary, Indiana

Dear Sirs and Madam:

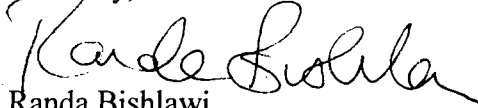
This letter serves to inform you that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has determined that a time-critical removal action is necessary to abate an imminent and substantial threat to public health, welfare or the environment posed by the presence of hazardous substances and pollutants in deteriorating drums and containers in and around the four abandoned buildings at 479 North Cline Avenue, Gary, Indiana (the Site), which is the street address of the former 55-acre landfill that operated at that location. The removal activities will be conducted pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq. The attached action memorandum details the planned action to address the hazardous substances and the necessity for such action. As indicated in the action memorandum, in January and February 2002, U.S. EPA addressed an oil spill from oil-containing drums outside the buildings at the Site under the Oil Pollution Act authority, 33 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq.

As indicated in my letter dated April 4, 2002, we understand that the current owner of the parcel involved in this removal action is the Gary Development Company, a dissolved corporation. The tax identification number for that parcel is #40-0152-0012. We understand this parcel to contain all four structures in the southwest corner of the Site. We further understand that Lake County has attempted or is attempting to sell the parcel in a tax sale. *It is critical that any prospective purchaser of the Site be made aware that the Site contains hazardous substances and that U.S. EPA has determined that a removal action is necessary to address the threat posed by the hazardous substances at the Site.*

Please note that this removal action does not address historical disposal of hazardous substances at the Site within the landfill area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any legal questions regarding this matter please contact me at (312) 886-0510 or if you have any questions regarding the removal activities, you may contact Anita Boseman, U.S. EPA, On-Scene Coordinator, at (312) 886-6941.

Sincerely,



Randa Bishlawi

Associate Regional Counsel

Encls. (1)

c.c. Jim Hughes, President, SRI Inc.
Anita Boseman, SE 5-J
Debbie Regel, SE5-J